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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed electronically with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the below date:
Date: May 29, 2009 Name: Tadashi Horie, Reg. No. 40,437 Signature: 

Attorney Docket No. 9683/261

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Satoru Adachi et al.)
Serial No. 10/680,205)
Filing Date: October 8, 2003) Examiner: Patel, Jayesh A.
For: IMAGE ENCODING METHOD, IMAGE) Group Art Unit No. 2624
DECODING METHOD, IMAGE) Confirmation No. 7459
ENCODING APPARATUS, IMAGE)
DECODING APPARATUS, IMAGE)
ENCODING PROGRAM, AND IMAGE)
DECODING PROGRAM))

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated December 19, 2008, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.